



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

4th Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 3

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Pages 68 – 103

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Peter Kilabuk, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Chair, Management and Services Board

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Striking Committee

Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

Striking Committee

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq

(Nattilik)

Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for Status of Women Council

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin)

Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Joe Allen Evyagotailak

(Kugluktuk)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole; Chair, Regular Members' Caucus

Hon. Ed. Picco

(Iqaluit East)

Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration

David Alagalak

(Arviat)

Peter Kattuk

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. David Simailak

(Baker Lake)

Minister of Finance; Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Steve Mapsalak

(Akulliq)

Co-Chair, Full Caucus

Hon. Patterk Netser

(Nanulik)

Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Human Resources

James Arvaluk

(Tunnuniq)

Levi Barnabas

(Quttiktuq)

Chair, Full Caucus; Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

Premier; Minister of Justice; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Striking Committee

Hon. Levinia Brown

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant
Kooyoo Nooshoota

Law Clerk
Susan Cooper

Sergeant-at-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	68
Ministers' Statements	68
Members' Statements	72
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	81
Oral Questions	82
Tabling of Documents	99
Orders of the Day	102

A.

Daily References

Thursday, March 8, 2007..... 68

B.

Ministers' Statements

004 – 2(4): International Women’s Day and Wise Woman Awards (Aglukkaq) 68
005 – 2(4): Lobby Effort Against USFWS Proposed Listing of Polar Bears (Netser)..... 69
006 – 2(4): Canada Winter Games Update (Tapardjuk)..... 70
007 – 2(4): Strengthening Financial Management – Consolidation of Positions (Simailak) 70
008 – 2 (4): CGS Trainee Update (Brown) 71

C.

Members' Statements

011 – 2(4): International Women’s Day (Mapsalak)..... 72
012 – 2(4): Canada Winter Games Culture Performance Group (Alagalak)..... 73
013 – 2(4): Qulliq Energy Corporation Scholarship Recipient (Evyagotailak) 73
014 – 2(4): Member’s Correspondence to NorthwesTel on Issues of Concern (Arvaluk)..... 74
015 – 2(4): Concerns Regarding NorthwesTel (Aglukkaq) 75
016 – 2(4): Distemper Vaccinations for Community Dogs (Barnabas) 76
017 – 2(4): International Women’s Day (Brown) 77
018 – 2(4): Yellowknife Weather Station (Peterson) 77
019 – 2(4): Aqsarniit Achieves Earth School Status (Tootoo)..... 78
020 – 2(4): International Women’s Day (Arreak)..... 80
021 – 2(4): International Women’s Day (Curley) 80

D.

Oral Questions

015 – 2(4): Status of Proposal to List Polar Bears as a Threatened Species (Curley)..... 82

016 – 2(4): Involving Standing Committees in Supplementary Appropriations/Payroll Tax
(Tootoo) 83

017 – 2(4): Need for New Arena in Pond Inlet (Arvaluk)..... 85

018 – 2(4): Distemper Vaccinations for Community Dogs (Barnabas) 88

019 – 2(4): Benefits to Nunavut Communities from International Polar Year Activities (Arreak)
..... 90

020 – 2(4): Status of Nunavut and Manitoba Road Project (Alagalak)..... 92

021 – 2(4): Status of Women Meeting Report January 2006 (Peterson)..... 94

022 – 2(4): Strengthening Financial Management (Tootoo) 97

E.

Tabling of Documents

013 – 2(4): Article 26 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement – Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement
(Okalik) 99

014 – 2(4): Biography for the Winner of the Wise Woman Award, Meeka Alivaktuk (Aglukkaq)
..... 100

015 – 2(4): Letter to NorthwesTel Regarding Nunavut Representation on the Board of Directors
and Call Display Services in Gjoa Haven (Aglukkaq) 100

016 – 2(4): Presentation to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Public Hearing on the
Proposal to List Polar Bears as Threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species (Netser) ... 100

017 – 2(4): Public Accounts – Consolidated Financial Statements and the Audited Non
Consolidated Financial Statements March 21, 2005 (Simailak)..... 100

018 – 2(4): Tagged Seal – Scientific Pictures from Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Curley)
..... 101

019 – 2(4): Letter to NorthwesTel Regarding Nunavut Representation on the Board of Directors
and Providing Payment Agent in the Smaller Communities (Arvaluk)..... 101

020 – 2(4): Cancelling the Flight Information Centre in Yellowknife (Peterson) 101

F.

Motions

002 – 2(4): Adjournment for the Day (Tootoo)..... 101

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 8, 2007

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Curley to lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and the public. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 004 – 2(4): International Women's Day and Wise Woman Awards

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just before I start with my Minister's Statement, I want to thank the Premier, yourself, and all of the members for celebrating International Women's Day with us over lunch today.

>>*Applause*

International Women's Day this year is on Thursday, March 8. As the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I would encourage Nunavummiut to join with people around the world to reflect on the progress we have made and the challenges we still face to ensure women have opportunities equal to those of men in our society.

On this day we can celebrate ordinary women as makers of history. This year the theme in Canada is *Ending Violence Against Women: Action for Real Results*. In Nunavut, it is a goal the Members of the Legislative Assembly have promised to meet so that women and girls are able to participate fully in society.

Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council has been helping women in communities plan events to mark International Women's Day. In Iqaluit, there will be a coffee house at Inuksuk High School at seven o'clock this evening. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Qullit has also, with funding from the Department of Health, launched the first-ever Wise Woman Award for Nunavut. This award recognizes the individual women who have, through voluntary service, improved the situation of women in their communities. This could be through counselling, advocacy, care giving, education, or organizing.

This morning it was my pleasure to recognize Meeka Alivaktuk, who is seating behind me, from Pangnirtung, as the Wise Woman for 2007.

>>*Applause*

All nominees will receive a certificate to acknowledge their contributions to the women of Nunavut.

I would ask the Members of this House to join with me in commending the efforts of Qullit, Meeka Alivaktuk, and all of the nominees for the good work that they have done to enhance the status of women. March 8, International Women's Day is truly a day worth celebrating here in Nunavut.

And, in closing, I would like to wish every woman in Nunavut a happy International Women's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

Minister's Statement 005 – 2(4): Lobby Effort Against USFWS Proposed Listing of Polar Bears

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's nice to be back into the best nation in the world. On December 27, 2006 the United States' Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it is proposing to list polar bears as threatened under its Endangered Species Act. The primary reason for the proposal is to protect the future loss of habitat and anticipated impact on the population level.

(interpretation) The Americans had proposed to list the polar bears as a threatened species. It's going to have an effect on the hunters and the economy should they become on the list, so we're opposed to it.

(interpretation ends) In addition to making a formal submission against the proposed listing, Premier Okalik and I are actively lobbying Canadian officials and politicians. We are also engaging the US government directly to explain our situation. I recently returned from a trip to Washington, D.C. to bring our message directly to their decision makers and later on today I will be tabling my presentation to the House.

Nunavut has a very effective polar bear management system and we are managing our polar bear population on a sustainable basis in a way that provides economic benefits to Nunavummiut. This system is a proven success and we will fight personally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 006 – 2(4): Canada Winter Games Update

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2007 Canada Winter Games and the Pan-North approach has provided Nunavut with the unique opportunity to showcase our talents, our culture, our craftsmanship, and most of all our hospitality to the rest of Canada.

Athletes that are representing Nunavut at the 2007 Canada Winter Games have trained and completed hard to be there with much assistance from the committed group of volunteer coaches, managers, and mission staff that have accompanied them on this journey.

They are over 140 athletes, volunteers, youth ambassadors, cultural performers, artists, coaches, managers, and mission staffs that are in Whitehorse representing Nunavut.

Eugene Dederick of Team Nunavut, competing in the over 100-kilogram Judo class, was the first medal winner in any of the four Canada Games competitions that Nunavut has participated in. Join me in congratulating Eugene on his historic accomplishment. The remainder of these games will take place up to March 10; so let's wish them the best of luck. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Simailak.

Minister's Statement 007 – 2(4): Strengthening Financial Management – Consolidation of Positions

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Budget 2007 outlines our government's commitment to strengthen financial management. Today, I would like to inform Members about our government's plans to further enhance accountability to strengthen our financial systems and reporting structures.

In her last report to the assembly, the Auditor General made a strong case for centralizing accounting positions. Our government has taken this advice seriously and now we are acting.

Effective April 1, finance positions from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will be consolidated to the Department of Finance. In addition, effective June 1, payment processing functions in the Department of Health and Social Services will be moved to the Department of Finance.

These measures will give us the beginnings of the critical mass required to achieve efficiencies across government. It will allow us to improve accountability and reporting. Let me make it clear though, we will not see the results of this change today, but rather over time.

In moving forward on this next stage of strengthening financial management, we have taken into account the possible impact on our most important resource, and that is our staff. This will be an opportunity for them to develop their skills and work together for a common cause. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Minister's Statement 008 – 2 (4): CGS Trainee Update

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I went to school to learn English, so I want to do this in English.

I rise today to update the members of this House on my department's progress on promoting Inuit training in order to achieve an Inuit employment level in the government that is representative of Nunavut.

Two years ago, Community and Government Services Qikiqtaaluk regional office implemented an internally funded training initiative aimed at filling two of their officer level positions, the Community Training and Development Officer position, and the Community Inspector position, with beneficiary candidates.

A training plan was tailored for each position and term employees were interviewed and hired into the target positions as mentors and trainers for beneficiary incumbents. Interviews were then held and two beneficiary candidates were selected to fill the two trainee positions.

Over the following two year period the trainees underwent a full course load through the Municipal Training Organization, as well as vigorous on the job training.

I am pleased to announce that both trainees, Allashuwa Ottokie and Nathaniel Joanasie have successfully completed all of their training requirements as outlined in their training plans.

And, I am also pleased to announce that these two trainees will be appointed to their officer level positions as of April 1, 2007.

This is one clear example of how my department is promoting the Inuit employment goals of this government as set out in *Pinasuaqtavut*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. I must say that you have learned to speak that language very well. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation) Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 011 – 2(4): International Women's Day

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize this day, International Women's Day.

(interpretation ends) I rise today to acknowledge the contributions made by all of the women of Nunavut. Today is International Women's Day, and International Women's Day is celebrated in many different ways around the world.

Mr. Speaker, the women have always had important roles in our culture. They kept their family warm with their hand sewn clothing that involved innovative patterns such as *Amautiit*, *Kamiik*, and mittens.

They helped the men to prepare them to go hunting. When they return with their catch, they were tasked in preparing the meat and the skins for tanning and later use. They were the main parent who raised the children and tended to all their needs.

In fact, it's fair to say that our society depends on women for its very survival.

Women today are moving into positions of political and social power on an equal footing with men.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the women in Nunavut a very happy International Women's Day and to encourage all of our daughters to reach their dreams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Member's Statement 012 – 2(4): Canada Winter Games Culture Performance Group

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very pleased with the Canada Winter Games and this is the reason why I'm rising today.

We have one individual from Arviat who is participating in the Canada Winter Games. I would like to recognize Jeff Landau-Scott, who is the escort of the performers: Karen Panigoniak, Doris Mamgark, Angela Mukyunik Dorothy Anoe, Elizabeth Mukyunik, Sheena Aulajut, and Katharine Suluraayuk.

These are the individuals who are doing the cultural performances and they are very popular with the audience. They are very good role models for the young people of Nunavut.

I am very pleased with the Arviat performance groups and I'm very proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Member's Statement 013 – 2(4): Qulliq Energy Corporation Scholarship Recipient

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to congratulate all women in Nunavut, and I want to recognize my wife and mother-in-law for making my atigi.

I would like to congratulate Kenny Algona from Kugluktuk. Kenny is the recipient of the 2007 Qulliq Energy Corporation awards and scholarship. (interpretation ends) Kenny is a second year student studying General Arts in the Grand Prairie Regional College. Kenny was one of the 14 Nunavut students who applied for the scholarship and I'm positive that this was not an easy decision to make for the selections committee.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Kenny on being awarded this scholarship and to encourage our youth in Nunavut to continue and further their education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 014 – 2(4): Member's Correspondence to NorthwesTel on Issues of Concern

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the House on my efforts to address some issues of concern related to the operations of NorthwesTel in Pond Inlet or in all communities.

As you will be aware, there are only seven communities in Nunavut in which payment agents are present to help customers in paying their bills.

My constituency of Pond Inlet is frustrated with NorthwesTel's recent decision to end the practice of having a payment agent in the community. As members know, NorthwesTel's residential bill outlines six payment options for customers. Six out of seven options require customers to have a credit card or bank account.

In a recent letter to the chairman of NorthwesTel's Board of Directors, I clearly explained that there are no banks in most of Nunavut's communities and I pointed out to him that in a majority of the communities there are no banks and I pointed out that a significant number of the company's customers in Nunavut are unilingual speaking elders who do not have a bank account, cheques, or credit cards.

The only practical option for these customers is to use the services of authorized local payment. (interpretation ends) I took the opportunity to formally request that NorthwesTel reconsider its policies and practices in this area, especially with respect to payment agent services in our smaller communities.

I showed the chairman that providing this service in Pond Inlet, and other communities would earn NorthwesTel a significant degree of appreciation from its customers.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Your time is up. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I would like consent to complete my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking consent to conclude his statement, are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also strongly urge NorthwesTel to take steps to ensure that Nunavut is adequately represented on its Board of Directors. At present, there are no Nunavut residents on the Board, which is an unacceptable situation.

At the appropriate time, I will formally table, for the public record, my correspondence. I will be following up on behalf of my constituents and for the correspondence to both NorthwesTel and CIBC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Member's Statement 015 – 2(4): Concerns Regarding NorthwesTel

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to draw the attention to a number of ongoing concerns to my constituents with respect to the operations of NorthwesTel also.

As members will recall, I wrote in the House in November of 2005 to highlight the needs for NorthwesTel to provide a call display service in the community of Gjoa Haven. I am confident that members will agree with me that it is important to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our society feel safe.

Our main concern that a significant number of my constituents have had to seek the assistance of the RCMP in dealing with threatening abuses of harassing phone calls from unknown individuals; the absence of a call display feature in the community makes it more difficult for this problem to be addressed. I have personally experienced this problem, and have assured NorthwesTel, that the provision of a call display feature would be welcome in the community.

Unfortunately, CRTC did not approve NorthwesTel's previous application to provide this service. Earlier this year I wrote to the chairman at NorthwesTel Board of Directors on the issue and ensured him of my support for further efforts on the part of the company to address this need.

I continue to look forward to his reply to my letter. I also took the opportunity to join with my colleague from Tununig in calling on NorthwesTel to take steps to ensure that Nunavut is adequately represented on its Board of Directors. At present there are no Nunavut residents on the board, a situation which I am certain other members will agree with me is unacceptable given that our territory accounts roughly one third of the company's customers.

At the appropriate time, I will be formally tabling for the public record a number of items related to these issues, and I will be following up on behalf of my constituents with further correspondence to both Northwestel and the CRTC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 016 – 2(4): Distemper Vaccinations for Community Dogs

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Today I would like to raise an issue that continues to plague the dogs of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) For a number of years, residents in my constituency have asked for assistance in ensuring that their dogs receive yearly vaccinations against deadly diseases, such as rabies and distemper. This issue has not been resolved in a very long time. At first, the responsibility for the Vaccination Program was under the Department of Renewable Resources. Later it was transferred to Health and Social Services and then back to Sustainable Development. Most recently, in November 2005, the Minister of Health and Social Services indicated in this House that her department is responsible for the vaccination of dogs.

I am sure that the minister understands very well the serious consequences of dogs not being vaccinated against these diseases. The dogs in her community of Gjoa Haven recently experienced a terrible distemper epidemic. This could have been prevented with a regularly administered Vaccination Program.

For centuries, dogs have played an important role in Inuit lifestyle and culture. As we know, that all changed when not too long ago, Inuit were settled into permanent communities. Dogs died. Dogs were killed. Dogs lost their status. An important part of our culture was on the edge of extinction.

These days' communities across Nunavut and the North are making huge efforts to bring back this important part of our culture. Dog team races are being planned in Labrador, Nunavik, South Baffin, North Baffin, the Kivalliq, and in the west. These events focus on revitalizing a traditional activity. It is important that we are able to ensure that this tradition stays alive and healthy for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): I understand your question, Mr. Barnabas. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Barnabas, please proceed.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and also my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) We now live in modern times. In the spirit of *Qanuqtuurniq*, the role of dogs in Nunavut has evolved and adapted. Dog teams now play an important role in our hunting and tourism economies. For some community residents, these seasonal employment opportunities allow families to earn money and be self-reliant, while still preserving their tradition and culture.

It would be a shame, a real shame, if the lack of a small amount of prevention were to destroy what has been so carefully saved from extinction.

I urge the Minister of Health and Social Services to make good on her commitment on November 22, 2005, to ensure that sled dog owners across Nunavut will receive distemper and rabies vaccinations for their dogs before it is too late. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Members' Statements. Ms. Brown.

Member's Statement 017 – 2(4): International Women's Day

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the International Women's Day, all the women of Nunavut, and all the women in the Chamber because it's very important and it's an International Women's Day and I would like to acknowledge the Nunavut Status of Women's Council.

Also, I am so proud of Meeka Alivaktuk for her recognition and you are a very good role-model and I am sure that young women will follow you, and I want all my seven daughters to have a good day and my niece, Amanda Ford. Have a good day, it's also your day too and also would like to acknowledge Ruth Ulujuk; it's her birthday today, happy birthday.

All of us have mothers and I am sure if it weren't for our mothers we wouldn't be here and we have grandmothers and some of us have granddaughters and us women have older and younger sisters, nieces, and cousins.

I would like to thank my colleague, Leona Aglukkaq, for being open with me. So if that's okay, we send electronic flowers to all the women through the computer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Member's Statement 018 – 2(4): Yellowknife Weather Station

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House on an issue that gravely concerns aviators and the flying public in the Kitikmeot. As it's commonly known in the north, flying for medical, business, and personal reasons is the only method of transportation that is available to Nunavummiut if they wish to travel to southern Canada or between communities in the north.

Mr. Speaker, flying in the north is fraught with danger due to extreme conditions in which we fly. As such, it is vitally important that our pilots have the most current and accurate weather information made available to them in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, certain aviators have alerted me to the fact that NavCanada has made a unilateral decision, in Ottawa, that compromises our safety.

This organization has closed the Yellowknife Weather Station, a decision which now forces aviators in the Kitikmeot and elsewhere to call North Bay, Ontario, to receive weather for our part of the country. Mr. Speaker, North Bay is 3000 km from Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, this may work fine elsewhere in Canada, but in the north it endangers the lives of our pilots, and our flying public. The weather in the north can change in a moment's notice, and a viable weather system should take this fact into account. It is also important to be mindful that the Yellowknife Airport is one of the busiest in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I'm particularly concerned about delays that calling North Bay would impose on our medical evacuation. In the Kitikmeot, a difference of only a few minutes in arriving at Yellowknife and getting into the hospital can mean the difference between life and death. Mr. Speaker, I urge the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to write to the President of NavCanada and urge them to reconsider unilateral decision to close the Yellowknife Weather Station.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I urge the minister to stress to them the importance of following suit on their promise to open flight information center in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will ask the minister questions on this issue, and I will be tabling for the public record my own correspondence to NavCanada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 019 – 2(4): Aqsarniit Achieves Earth School Status

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to salute the teacher and students at Iqaluit's Aqsarniit School on the recent achievement of Earth School Status. Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to have been able to attend the Aqsarniit's Earth School Celebration on February 23 which was hosted by the Environment Club leaders, Josephina Rooter and Jeanie Dawson.

I was pleased to have been able to also bring greetings on behalf of my other two colleagues from Iqaluit who were unable to attend. I know that they are also very proud of the school's accomplishments and it was amazing to see the pride in the school from the students that participated in these projects, too. It was really nice to see.

Mr. Speaker, the students and teachers of Aqsarniit show us that dedication and hard work allows people of all ages to make a real contribution to our planet's future. Students in grades six and seven recently hit the mark of successfully undertaking 1,000 environmentally-friendly projects. These include a diverse range of activities such as recycling, composting, taking part in day camps with Inuit elders, lobbying City Council, and many, many, many more, I think 996 more if you want to be exact.

Mr. Speaker, the world's awareness of global warming and its impacts on the Arctic is growing by the day. I think that the old saying, 'Think globally, act locally,' really applies here.

And as my colleague recently came back from the United States, you could say maybe that was the method you should be passing on to our neighbours south of the border that maybe they should do that as well, things like signing on the Kyoto Accord, to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that they put out that are affecting the habitat of the polar bears instead of having to do what we have to do to save the bears and put them on the endangered list but they're still going to keep damaging their environment.

By putting a lot of effort into their projects these young people are showing us that we can all make a difference for our communities and our world.

I think another thing that I found very interesting in that my colleague could have took with him...

I would like to ask for consent to conclude my statement Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

One of the video clips that they showed at this celebration was 'The Effect of Global Warming on Polar Bears.' At first on the screen nothing came on. I wondered if that was it: there's no more bears left. But then it clicked in and what it showed was a polar bear with a pair of clippers shaving all of his fur off. So we had a hairless polar bear and that was the effect that global warming was having on them. I think that, too, is something that my colleague could have shared with his friends at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service folks down there.

So at this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members to join me in congratulating Aqsarniit School and all of the students, teachers, volunteers, and the sponsors that participated in allowing them to reach their Earth School status and I congratulate them on their achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

Member's Statement 020 – 2(4): International Women's Day

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to stand today and recognize the International Women's Day. I have seven daughters as well and two of them just recently had their birthdays and I would like to say, "I love you" to them and my wife.

This day being the International Women's Day, I would also like to recognize my mother. She was born around 1920s. At this time she is now an elder and she always says that she's no longer strong enough to do things but I feel that she's always been very strong to do things she has done for years. She has done many things to help clothe, feed, and care for the children.

I feel that she has done a huge workload and she has never been recognized before; she has been a midwife to many women. She has numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

I would like to say that there's all kinds of great-great-grandchild, too, as well that she has, although she has not seen them all yet.

I would like to congratulate my mother, and I feel she is very strong in my community. I also feel that I should tell the Members that they should go and see their elders as often as they can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Member's Statement 021 – 2(4): International Women's Day

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Just a short one, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also acknowledge the International Women's Day, especially the women in Nunavut. For International Women's Day I would like to congratulate Meeka Alivaktuk for being recognized as a wise woman. She is from Pangnirtung.

I would like to say that if I was the Minister for Status of Women I would say in this House that...I would also like to recognize...even if we have a wise woman for every year that is recognized, there should be a woman that is recognized for counselling. Perhaps each community should recognize a woman that has been doing counselling for many, many years. Perhaps if we did that we would have a better community.

I wanted to say this today because the only way that you have good family ties is if you have a mother and a family. It's good that we are able to go and see them as we grow older.

I would like to thank the Member for Arviat and I have a great-grandmother. She was a very wise woman. She used to counsel younger people and she was able to counsel us in ways of having a very good life. I would like to support the Minister for the Status of Women to be able to recognize women that are counselling as well, and women that are elders that help the people in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements. There are no more Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Gallery today a well known Nunavummiut, a person from Cambridge Bay, Ms. Helen Tologanak sitting behind me. She goes by the name of Navalik. She is a columnist for News North.

If a person reads News North, you will find out what's going on in Cambridge Bay, and sometimes find out what's going on with me. Helen is also a Board Member for Aboriginal Healing Foundation, which does a lot of good work for Nunavummiut. So welcome Helen to the Gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. I didn't want to be the first one to recognize a person in the Gallery.

I would also like to recognize, and she was recognized today for Wise Woman of the Year from Pangnirtung. I am sure her family and her husband and all the family will be very proud of her. She was just recognized by the Status of Women this afternoon. I would like to congratulate this individual. She is with her sister; Sheila Ulayuk and the children. I would like to recognize them all and to welcome them to the Gallery.

Also, a well known person: Rebecca Veevee. Please welcome to the Gallery. As this is International Women's Day, I would like to welcome those people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 015 – 2(4): Status of Proposal to List Polar Bears as a Threatened Species**

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Environment for making a statement and I will ask him a question in *Inuktitut* to see whether he could give us an outline of the information that he gave out when he was in the United States. And, did they acknowledge information that was given to them? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were in Washington, dealing with the *Endangered Species Act* with regard to polar bears.

They would like to put the polar bear on the endangered species list and we went down to talk with them and told them that they should not be put on the list. There were five of us that were against the States wanting to add them to the endangered species list. There were a lot of people that were against what we were trying to do down in Washington.

They don't seem to understand what we're trying to say, and they didn't seem to want to pay any attention. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those people who didn't even want to bother listening, are they representing the government or from agencies? Who exactly were those people who didn't seem to care about your presentation? Does the minister have an idea as to how long it will take the American scientists to come up with an answer? When should we expect an answer? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people that we gave our presentation to said they would study the contents and they were going to study this further. We should know by January as to exactly how they will treat this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Your second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question: will the minister commit to me today that he will be open to providing compensation to outfitters in communities? Have they considered this at all?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for Environment, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. If those hunters were to be compensated, then the Cabinet will definitely have to consider compensating but that's all I can give you at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 016 – 2(4): Involving Standing Committees in Supplementary Appropriations/Payroll Tax

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow-up again today with the Minister of Finance on some questioning on the budget address that he gave yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I think my last supplementary question to the minister yesterday I had asked him if he would commit to allowing the standing committees to be involved in reviewing supplementary appropriations if they received a windfall or a bunch of money from the federal government after this budget. He had indicated yesterday that once the department has finalized the details, then the standing committees can be involved.

I guess, Mr. Speaker, we all know supplementary appropriations traditionally refer to over-expenditures, projects, things go over. The process that we're going through right now with the main estimates is dealing with spending of new dollars for the next year. That's where the standing committees, where the members have an opportunity to have some input to that. We see it in draft form prior to it coming forth to the House, and then it comes into the House after that, and we further debate it here.

What I'm looking for from the minister is a commitment that if they're planning on bringing over a supplementary appropriation to get some excess funding out of the next federal budget later this month. And bringing and trying, and bringing in the supplementary appropriation to deal with how the government wants to spend that money and probably I would guess this June, the spring session.

So would he commit to, maybe at the end of April, having the standing committees for a shorter time to review what the government has and present it in a draft form to allow all Members of this House to have an opportunity to have input on how the government plans on spending any additional funds that it gets from Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Finance, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will know for sure by March 19. After we hear what the budget will be, will there be some for Nunavut, or for the Arctic, or for the north to the different departments from the federal

government. Once they have identified the funding, then we will know from there as to what procedure we will take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess what I'm looking for is a commitment from the ministers if they are planning on bringing forward a supplementary appropriation if they get additional revenues from Ottawa.

Will he commit to following the due process that we follow through with budgets and everything else where the standing committees would have an opportunity to see it in a draft form prior to it coming into the House, like the same format that we're doing right now with the main estimates?

So would the minister commit to if they find out in the middle of this month, by the end of April they should have an idea of how much money we have, if any, and how they figure it should be spent? Would he commit to sharing that with the appropriate standing committees, say at the end of April, to allow members of the standing committees to have some input into how that funding is going to be allocated prior to it coming into this spring session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Finance, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time we don't know what they will give us but once I get that budget...will they pass the budget, or will there be an election? Will the PCs be kicked out? We have to wait, but if they're going to go a step ahead, and if there's going to be funding identified, yes I can commit to his question that we will provide that.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that commitment. I know that we don't know and I guess, in his words, we want to be optimistic and hopeful that there is something for us to look at in April, and will look forward to coming forward in the spring sitting.

Another thing that he mentioned in his budget address yesterday was the legislation dealing with tax relief for single parents and that stems from the amendment made to the Payroll Tax; increasing it to two percent. One of the things that was mentioned then that I raised as an issue was the fact that Payroll Tax is that – a Payroll Tax; the only people that are on payroll pay that tax. This government spends millions of dollars on contract employees and consultants. That's what the Payroll Tax is supposed to be targeting; that money that is just going out of the Territory. They fall through the loop; they're not addressed here.

I am just wondering if he had made a commitment to look at that. I am just wondering if he could indicate if they are also looking at bringing something to capture that was missing in the Payroll Tax. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently reviewing this especially to the people that the government contracts out. We are currently reviewing it and after giving this consideration then we will come up with recommendations as to look at the contractors, the consultants, as to how we can use this better. This is currently being reviewed at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that it's being looked at. I was hoping to see something on it in the Budget Address. As we know we are paying like...I think last year, for example, there was \$12 million paid out for Agency Nurses. If they're contract employees, that's \$12 million with no Payroll Tax collected on it.

I look forward to that. I am just wondering and the minister indicated they're looking at it, if he can give us an idea of when we can expect to see something come forward by the government, or his department to capture that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are reviewing this and we've put this as a priority, but at this time I can't really say exactly when I will be able to provide that information, but we are working on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 017 – 2(4): Need for New Arena in Pond Inlet

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Community and Government Services. In regards to \$130 million that will be used for the next five years.

In my community of Pond Inlet funding has been provided for the new community hall. However, the community's need for a new arena has not been met. I note that the department's information on this project indicates, (interpretation ends) and I quote; "... that this facility, with a new arena in an effort to save on building systems costs, and provide a central recreational complex for this large community. The hall design will allow for future arena additions when funds are identified."

Can the minister outline to me today how her department will identify the funds for the new Pond Inlet arena? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for Pond Inlet.

The budget plan that is going to be used for 100...the recommendations were given to me and I had to give them consideration and I had to approve because there was this committee - two from Nunavut Association of Municipalities and two from the Government of Nunavut. We would visit the communities and after visiting the communities, they were dealt with in February.

The communities were sent correspondence and if my colleague can wait we will be at the witness table. If its okay, then I will be able to give a full report once we start dealing with my department. Occasionally some change changes occur. So, that's where we are at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for answering my question, but she answered me in two ways.

Are we looking at the number of days, or when it is possible? As I stated earlier, they were included. With the help of the Hamlet of Pond Inlet, they put it in their plans. In the 2007-08 capital estimates are included funding for arena projects in a number of different communities over the next five years.

Will the minister commit to looking at ways to include funding for Pond Inlet's arena when the next five-year capital plan is presented later on this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of people from Nunavut, and there are a lot of buildings that are aging and in need of repair. They are still being used by the communities even though they are not in good condition, but they are still useable.

With regard to your question, I will not be able answer it prior to the approval of the budget. We can look at this issue in a year or so, and prioritize what is most needed in the communities, and in which communities.

I'm sure that the people of Pond Inlet are looking forward to getting an arena. I feel for you, but of course, there are a lot of buildings that need renovation. My staff will be here and we will discuss it. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that it was in reasonably good condition. We're talking about the children who know more about the astronomy because they're looking at the stars through holes in their roofs and they know more about astronomy than skating. You can see the stars through the cracks in the roof.

(interpretation ends) This week's Commissioner's Address indicates that Nunavut will continue to work with the other territories to seek the establishment of a Strategic Northern Infrastructure Fund to jointly achieve infrastructure objectives across the north.

Can the minister assure me today that Nunavut will make a strong case to Ottawa that investment in community recreational facilities are an important part of ensuring healthy communities and healthy youth? Thank you.

A Member: Hear, hear.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am sorry about your arena being in bad shape but we will look at it.

If we use Resolute Bay as an example, it does require facilities. I think we'll definitely have to look at the communities, the have-not communities. I get briefed by our staff but we can't visit them all at the same time.

In regard to your question, when we go down to Ottawa we meet with our counterparts from the Canadian provinces and we keep repeatedly trying to make a case to Ottawa that Nunavut is unique and the poorest in the country.

We can also talk to the Premier because he works with the other two territories. I think that he could make a stronger case. But of course we're not going to see instant results but we will start to see results over the year. And, we hope to meet the needs of the communities and Nunavut. I would like to thank the member very much for asking those questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for her response. It can't be helped right now, which I understand.

As the minister, you have to make decisions and the staff usually knows which communities should be placed as a priority, which community is lacking facilities. Could the minister tell me when the minister herself can come up to Pond Inlet?

We are a very friendly community, but I would like to know from the minister when she herself, not her staff, will be coming up to Pond Inlet. We're not looking only at an arena. We are looking at a healthy community and a future for our youth, for healthy youth.

The people of Pond Inlet, the hamlet council has placed their needs and they have placed the arena as a top priority. I would like to invite the minister to visit Pond Inlet as soon as she can. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's always exciting to be invited to a community and we hear that the minister should be trying to go to the communities as often as possible, which we're trying to do. I've been to Pond Inlet two times and it's a very friendly community and one of the most beautiful especially in the spring when you have twenty four hour daylight. That's when I was up there.

I would like to have a meeting with a meeting with the hamlet council and to tour the community and to see the facilities, which of course, are very, very important to the community. Usually what happens is we prioritize every year and there are some slight changes.

Since you extended an invitation I will make a point of going up there and let the member know when I'll be able to go up. I have visited a lot of the communities but when I get an invitation from the communities I usually make a point of going. We have to see for ourselves with our own eyes what those facilities are like and not just communicate by phone. It's a lot better when you visit the communities physically. Even though that is the case, I would like to represent the whole of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Members I wish to remind you that we still have members that we like to try and get to in the time we have left. Try and keep your preambles short and responses to the point.

Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 018 – 2(4): Distemper Vaccinations for Community Dogs

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

In my statement earlier I spoke of the ongoing difficulty my constituents are having in getting distemper vaccinations for their dogs.

On November 22, 2005, the Minister indicated that her department was responsible for the vaccination of dogs across Nunavut. Can the Minister provide an update on what steps have been taken to ensure that distemper and rabies vaccinations have been made available, especially to sled dogs, across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for following up on that. The update from my conversation with the member in November was: the Department of Health, under the *Public Health Act*, is the responsibility for rabies vaccination. Rabies vaccination, we're responsible for that because it is a threat to human society. We provide that in every community.

What we're trying to do right now is come up with a territorial-wide rabies vaccination prevention strategy. We are working in partnership with Community and Government Services and Department of Environment and putting that framework in place.

Last year alone the Department of Health distributed 3,250 doses of animal vaccinations to lay vaccinators in the community. We provide rabies shots to various volunteers, to wildlife officers, to by-law officers, to dog catchers, and in some, with our own public health officials.

I want to also explain that the Department of Health does not provide vaccines for distemper. Distemper is not a threat to the human society. Under the *Public Health Act* we provide the vaccines where it is a threat to the human society. In the case of distemper, it isn't.

I hope that clarifies the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this year is the worst case of losing dogs due to distemper and especially in the three communities that I know of. I observe for the residents of Gjoa Haven for the loss of their dogs due to distemper. Can the minister tell this House what is being done to prevent this type of outbreak from happening again? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can only speak on the initiatives of the Department of Health under the prevention of rabies. The strategy that we have every

year through public health is to report any, in the case of a community where a person has been bitten by a dog, the health center officials are notified, wildlife officers are also notified because they have the expertise in sending out samples, and so on, of animals.

So from that, we have a prevention strategy that is in the works along with Community and Government Services and Department of Environment to reduce the risk of rabies in Nunavut. I cannot speak to veterinarian services, I can't speak to that.

The Department of Health does not provide treatment of sick dogs. We provide vaccinations to prevent the spread of rabies to the human communities. I hope that clarifies the separation of those two vaccination needs of the dogs. I don't know how to describe it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are aware and we see through the media that the veterinarians arrived to Iqaluit and vaccinate the dogs in Iqaluit. But in the smaller communities and outside of Iqaluit the veterinarians do not visit the communities.

(interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to ensure that rabies, and distemper recognitions programs are conducted on a yearly basis in all of Nunavut's communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to providing vaccinations for rabies, because that is what is covered under the Public Health Act. The rabies vaccination program, we provide the vaccinations to stop the spread of rabies to the human community. I can commit to that.

In terms of the other treatments dogs require, I cannot commit to that. The Department of Health's Public Health Act, we provide service to the people and the spread of disease to the human communities, so I hope that clarifies the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

Question 019 – 2(4): Benefits to Nunavut Communities from International Polar Year Activities

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, International Polar Year was launched last week. A wave of researchers and scientists will soon be visiting Nunavut and other northern regions to collect data and information.

Can the Premier update this House on what kinds of input our government has had on reviewing and approving research projects that will be conducted in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologise. The Nunavut Research Institute will also be involved because they approve the proposal for research and also I was very pleased that Inuit entities were involved.

It was obvious that Inuit need to be more involved with the International Polar Year. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, I thank the Premier.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, for the information that has been made public to date, it seems that efforts have been made to ensure that northerners have opportunities to contribute to the Canadian International Polar Year project.

Can the minister update this House on what types of financial assistance and other resources will be made available to Nunavut communities participating in these projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government provides the funding for research, so I cannot respond to that question as to what kind of financial assistance there will be for Nunavut but I will look into that and table it in the House.

I am aware of the researchers that come up here, and we provide research licenses to the proponents. But, I'm not about to respond to the financial assistance part at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Minister.

I recognize that some Nunavut communities will be popular destinations for polar research and scientists because of their locations because of previous activities, or because of existing support networks.

How can other Nunavut communities take advantage of employment and training opportunities with International Polar Year projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to my knowledge, this will be a three-year project starting in 2007. I'm very pleased that the federal government stated that they will be researching what kinds of impacts Inuit culture has experienced.

I'm very pleased with the research that will be occurring, but I cannot tell you exactly what they will be doing but I stated earlier on that they will require licenses. I will look to the federal government to find out the exact details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. I understand that you will be issuing licenses to the researchers.

In the past, researchers and scientists came and went and rarely shared the results of their research with Inuit. Can the minister explain how the results of International Polar Year projects will be shared with Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I attended the initial meeting and we no longer practice the old practices as in the NWT days. We need to inform the impacted communities and we don't want to replay the old...perhaps in English. (interpretation ends) It was often said that an Inuit family consisted a father, a mother, a daughter, a son, and anthropologists. Now, we can include the scientists.

(interpretation) So that's the plan for the International Polar Year projects, and we do want to work closely with the researchers and scientists but we do need to be involved fully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Question 020 – 2(4): Status of Nunavut and Manitoba Road Project

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although we can't see the stars, or see the astrology through the roof of the community facilities, I will direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

I think that the consultation tour for Manitoba and Nunavut road has been completed and they toured Arviat, too. Have they made a report as to their next step? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The consultation tour in the Keewatin region for the Nunavut to Manitoba road; they consulted with the communities and that consultation tour has been completed.

They suggested that they build the road closer to the shoreline, and they believe that it would cost \$1.2 billion. So that's what they have stated and they're looking to locate the sites. They will be provided with \$1 million funding for the research or study started last year in April 2005. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Baker Lake, I'm sure they are yelling, "No!" And last year we were told, in the summer of 2007, that they would dump the first load for the construction of the road. So has there been any funding set aside to start the first dumping of the loads to construct the road? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I have not heard if they will be dumping their first load. I don't think they have started looking for the site but the site they suggested will still require research. We still require wildlife research and it will cost approximately \$1.2 billion.

I'm not sure where the funding would come from. I don't think it's being considered as yet. I have not heard of whether they will be dumping their first load. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps, we were misled. We were told last year the study that was done for Manitoba to Nunavut road that they would look at all of the pros and cons but there were three issues on the Manitoba side. They

toured and consulted with the communities, and we were told according to the traditional knowledge of Inuit which area is the best location.

Listening to them, \$1.2 billion is not such a huge sum of money. The province of Manitoba will provide funding. That's what we have heard. They would start expending some funds. Perhaps it will cost a little over \$500 million in Nunavut.

According to your knowledge, as you have stated you have no knowledge about the first dumping of the load. We're near the end of the study and nothing is still coming. Perhaps you will be meeting with them this coming winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, during the study our officials from the Department of Transportation worked with the Kivalliq Inuit Association on the Nunavut to Manitoba road. And they have a committee or a working group. So I will look into them to figure out where their progression is with their funding. I will ask them: have we looked for the location of the road? Kivalliq Inuit Association and Manitoba...these two.

I will look into those and inform my colleague once I get the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Perhaps if you can't respond to my question at this time you can respond to me next time around.

I feel that this project has to get going and if you happen to get information on that Manitoba to Kivalliq road, if you can inform me on what the progress is? That would be good for me. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister of Transportation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I expect that my staff is already in the process of trying to find out the question of the member and I will inform the member as soon as I hear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 021 – 2(4): Status of Women Meeting Report January 2006

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

Last January 17 to 20, 2006 a symposium was held here in Iqaluit to discuss issues relating to violence against women and also violence against children and elders. A very good report was produced from the final forum. I hold it here so you can see. It summarizes recommendations for a strategy to eliminate violence against women. I highly recommend that everybody who has an opportunity get that report and read it, not just the members of this House but for the general public as well.

My question for the minister is would the minister tell me when the strategy will be finalized, as they recommended in this report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for the Status of Women Council, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has formed an interdepartmental working group to put in place an implementation plan of that report. I'm not sure exactly when that report will be completed or released to the members.

One of the initiatives that came out of that was Bill 12, which we dealt with in November. There is an interdepartmental working group putting together the implementation plan and what resources will be required to implement the recommendations arising from the symposium. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I believe the committee called the Violence Against Women Working Group, VAWWG.

Could the minister clarify for me, and tell the House, who she expects will be writing the report. Will it be the working group or will it be a public servant or will it be consultants from here, from the south, or elsewhere in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The departmental working group will be putting the implementation plan together. You'll note within the recommendations, a lot of those recommendations are within the responsibility of various departments, and each policy official from each department will put their pieces together, coordinated essentially by between EIA, as well as Health, to present to this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sound like the working group has got a lot of work ahead of it.

Would the minister commit to the House to circulate a draft to all MLAs and the community groups, before the report is finalized, and tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to providing the implementation plan to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that commitment. The Finance Minister yesterday in his budget address mentioned that we're going to have many pressing financial constraints in Nunavut in the next fiscal year and probably for a few years to come. In this report it looks like there's going to be a tremendous demand for our resources. It is necessary for us to support the recommendations that the working group is recommending.

Would the minister explain what sort of resources she anticipates being required for support implementation of the recommendations in the report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the dollars that will be required to implement recommendations coming out of that, once we have the implementation plan in place we'll have a better idea in terms of the dollars that will be required to put forth those recommendations.

Some recommendations fall within the territorial government, some community agencies or the federal government. The idea is also to work collaboratively with other service providers in our communities; not just the Government of Nunavut but the Hamlets, the federal government, and so on.

So in terms of the exact amount, I can't speak to that at this point in time. Once we have the implementation plan we'll have a better idea the cost implications to that and whether those projects are short-term or long-term will be identified as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 022 – 2(4): Strengthening Financial Management

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Finance, some questions on his minister statement that he made today on calculating financial management and then consolidation of positions.

In his statement earlier today he had indicated that effective April 1, the finance divisions from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will be consolidated to the Department of Finance and effective June 1, payment processing functions in Department of Health and Social Services will move to Department of Finance.

Can he give us an indication of how they determined to go with those first? I know he said this is the beginning of process but how do they determine to amalgamate Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs positions and take over certain functions in the Department of Health. How did they come up with that plan, I mean, looking at where to start and strengthening our financial management? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister for Finance, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs volunteered to transfer their finance positions to Department of Finance and also the Minister of Health and Social Services volunteered her department to be the guinea pig as we are trying to strengthen financial management, most of the words she used a number of times at various meetings.

That's basically what it boils down to: both departments volunteered their, both sections in their departments to be transferred back to the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tootoo

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me just ask the Minister of Finance ...it's nice that those two departments volunteered to be guinea pigs. In the process, as a department and looking at the overall financial situation, financial management situation throughout the government, have they determined which areas need to be addressed? You know, some are more urgent than others. Like paying bills for Department of Health is our problem. The over-expenditures there are a problem, I hear that. Paying bills government-wide is a problem too.

Do they have a plan or have they looked at all the departments and come up with a way of prioritizing where problem areas are and what they are and plan to address those? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The departments that volunteered their finance sections to be transferred back to the Department of Finance. We are going ahead with those two departments.

That will give us a very good idea of how much of a difference we can make by doing it within the Department of Finance and also it will allow the two departments, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and Health can concentrate on other areas rather than just they're trying to pay their bills everyday.

It's going to be a learning process for all three departments. We are starting to look at what other areas and what other departments we should consider but that is still in the thinking stage.

Now, with these two departments doing this, this coming spring, it will give us a very good idea of where we should go next and what we should try next if anything. So, it's going to be a real learning process that we want to go through and will be very good work for us to do with the office of the Auditor General in terms of new things to strengthen financial management across this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering if the thinking stage is now trying to determine where to start and what to look at other than what has already been offered up on the table, so to speak, with those two departments.

But one of the things that I know has been problems in the past, and the Department of Finance is a central agency that puts together our main estimates from the departments, they get all the information to provide updates to the members and on the government as a whole through where we're at.

But, I know that in the past there have been problems with some departments being able to provide financial information in a timely manner and cases of over spending where there is over spending. Would the minister take a look at including those as indicators of areas that they may want to look at addressing first to help strengthen the financial management in those particular areas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a result of our review of the Government of Nunavut's Financial Structures Report in 2006, there were nine separate actions plans that were recommended and approved.

We are continuing to work through all of those, and we'll continue to work through all of those. Just as a few examples: expand accountability framework, enhance the strategy for public accounts, and so on, and so on. We are everyday working on all of those.

Now, with these two departments volunteering their finance sections to be transferred back to finance, that's just another step in the right direction I think. And, we will continue to just work away at it.

All areas are being looked at; departments being late with providing their information, we're continuing to work with those departments to solve that problem, and so on. So, there are whole numbers of areas that are ongoing at the same time in terms of strengthening financial management across government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated in his last response that there were a number of different action plans, or whatever. I don't know if that's what he called them.

But, would he commit to providing those to Standing Committee of Government Operations and Accountability, to have a look at so that we can also monitor and check on the progress that is being made in the area of strengthening financial management within the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into that. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, we'll take a 20-minute break, and then we'll return after 20 minutes.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:19 and resumed at 15:34*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 013 – 2(4): Article 26 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement – Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document for clarification purposes: *Article 26* of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement dealing with Inuit impact and benefit agreements verifying that IBAs can only be negotiated on Inuit owned land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Tabled Document 014 – 2(4): Biography for the Winner of the Wise Woman Award, Meeka Alivaktuk

Tabled Document 015 – 2(4): Letter to NorthwesTel Regarding Nunavut Representation on the Board of Directors and Call Display Services in Gjoa Haven

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two items here. I wish to table the bio for the winner of the Wise Woman Award, Meeka Alivaktuk of Pangnirtung, as per my minister's statement.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table today a copy of my recent correspondence to the chairman of the Board of Directors of NorthwesTel. In my letter I urge the corporation to take action and provide call display services to the community of Gjoa Haven.

This service is essential to addressing concerns that arisen from a number of my constituents who have received abusive and harassing calls. I also urge the corporation to take steps to ensure that Nunavut is represented on its Board of Directors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Minister Netser.

Tabled Document 016 – 2(4): Presentation to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Public Hearing on the Proposal to List Polar Bears as Threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: the presentation to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service public hearing. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Simailak.

Tabled Document 017 – 2(4): Public Accounts – Consolidated Financial Statements and the Audited Non Consolidated Financial Statements March 21, 2005

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the 2004-05 Public Accounts of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2005. Public Accounts consists of two documents; the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements, and the unaudited, non-consolidated financial statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Tabled Document 018 – 2(4): Tagged Seal – Scientific Pictures from Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a photograph from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. They are scientific pictures of hacked seals which our elders would consider cruelty to animals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Arvaluk.

Tabled Document 019 – 2(4): Letter to NorthwTel Regarding Nunavut Representation on the Board of Directors and Providing Payment Agent in the Smaller Communities

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of my recent correspondence to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of NorthwTel.

In my letter I urge the corporation to ensure that payment agents are made available in Nunavut communities. I also urge the corporation to take steps to ensure that Nunavut is represented on the Board of Directors.

I look forward to tabling the chairman's reply to my letter which I have not yet received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Tabling of Documents. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 020 – 2(4): Cancelling the Flight Information Centre in Yellowknife

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of my recent correspondence to the President of NavCanada.

In my letter I urge NavCanada to respond to concerns of the northern aviation community on the issues I raised in my Member's Statement today. I look forward to tabling the president's reply, which I have not yet received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I don't think there are any more. Thank you. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 002 – 2(4): Adjournment for the Day

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 46, and mother nature, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove, that the Assembly adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): The Member for Iqaluit Centre's motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried, and we'll go to Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for March 9:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors from the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees.
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notice of Motions
16. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1

21. Report to Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:40*

